

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05

EB-07 /033 W

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P 251620Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2590

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1020

FOR ARA/CU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AMERICAN SPECIALIST ON LABOR: SABY NEHAMA

1. EMBASSY REQUESTS AMERICAN LABOR SPECIALIST SABY NEHAMA FOR TWENTY DAY CONSULTATION WITH HONDURAN DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERS, BOTH IN TEGUCIGALPA AND ON NORTHCOAST. GRAVE UNION SPLITS AND LARGE GAINS ACHIEVED BY COMMUNIST LABOR ELEMENTS HAVE ALARMED THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP. THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IS CONCERNED THAT URBAN AND RURAL UNION MOVEMENTS UNITED IN THE CONFEDERATION OF HONDURAN WORKERS (CTH) OF 140,000 MEMBERS WILL FALL UNDER COMMUNIST DOMINATION, WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE COUNTRY. THE DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERSHIP HAS REQUESTED ORIENTATION ON UNION ORGANIZING TACTICS, CONTROL OF MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES AND NEW APPROACHES TO COUNTERACT COMMUNIST GAINS IN TRADITIONALLY DEMOCRATIC HONDURAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NEHAMA IS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL QUALIFIED FOR THIS ACTIVITY. FOR MANY DECADES, HE WAS A UNION ORGANIZER AND OFFICER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION IN NEW YORK CITY. HE ROSE TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE 17,000 MEMBER SPANISH DEPARTMENT OF THE 40,000 MEMEBER LOCAL 22 OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION. NEHAMA PARTICIPATED IN THE STRUGGLES OF THE 1930'S AND 1940'S BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS FOR CONTROL OF

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THE UNION. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVE-

MENTS IN THE U.S. HE HAS BEEN HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY PENN KEMBLE AND SASHA ZIMMERMAN, BOTH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN THE U.S. AND FORMERLY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY.

3. ALTHOUGH RETIRED FROM HIS UNION POSITIONS, NEHAMA CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A CONSULTANT AND TEACHER BOTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE U.S. RECENTLY, HE HAS SERVED AS AN ORGANIZING CONSULTANT TO THE LATIN AMERICAN TEXTILE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT UNDER A TEXTILE WORKERS OF AMERICA SUB-CONTRACT WITH USAID. HE HAS ALSO TAUGHT COURSES AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT (AIFLD) SCHOOL IN FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINAIA. HE IS COMPLETELY BILINGUAL. HE HAS BEEN IN HONDURAS PREVIOUSLY AND HAS ESTABLISHED GOOD AND CONTINUING RELATIONS WITH THE TOP DEMOCRATIC LEADERS.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT MR. NEHAMA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER. IF FEASIBLE, THE EMBASSY WOULD PREFER THAT MR. NEHAMA ARRIVE IN HONDURAS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. IN-COUNTRY PROGRAMMING OF MR. NEHAMA WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE LABOFF AND AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP. IT IS BELIEVED THAT TWENTY DAYS WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR MR. NEHAMA TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM ENVISIONED FOR HIM. THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT THE TOTAL COST OF A TWENTY-DAY VISIT BY MR. NEHAMA WILL BE \$2,754.50. THAT FIGURE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

(A) ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE FROM	
NEW YORK CITY	\$ 449.50
(B) PER-DIEM COSTS WHILE IN	
HONDURAS AND ENROUTE	730.00
(C) TWENTY-ONE DAYS CONSULTANT	
FEES AT \$75/DAY	1,575.00
TOTAL	\$2,754.50

THE EMBASSY IS INFORMED THAT MR. NEHAMA NORMALLY RECEIVES THE ABOVE FIGURE AS A CONSULTANT FEE, WHICH IS APPARENTLY NECESSITATED DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE IS RETIRED. MR. NEHAMA CAN BE REACHED THROUGH MG. JESSE FRIEDMAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AIRFLD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

5. THE AMBASSADOR STRONGLY ENDORSES THE ABOVE REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICAN SPECIALIST, MR. SABA NEHAMA, AND BELIEVES HIS VISIT WILL BE SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. INTERESTS IN HONDURAS. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, DEFECTION, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEGUCI01020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760070-1230
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760213/aaaaakoy.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ullricre>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR AMERICAN SPECIALIST ON LABOR: SABY NEHAMA
TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, HO, US, (NEHAMA, SABY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006